

MISCELLANEOUS PRAYERS BY WILLIS E. BISHOP AND OTHERS

Prayer: Our heavenly Father, we thank You this morning that we have just such a Savior, who is a constant companion, and for the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit as well to lead us and guide us in this walk for Him. Thank You for bringing us to this morning hour. We pray as we turn to the Word of God again that we may speak and hear carefully and that You may teach us concerning Yourself. In Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Ending prayer: Our heavenly Father, we thank You for just going over this chapter. We pray that out of the things that are mysterious we may sense somehow the greatness and the wonder and the awesomeness of the God who loved us and gave Himself for us in the person of Christ. We pray in the light of that we may, even with Ezekiel, fall before Him and do obeisance to our great God and Savior. Help us to be witnesses for You today, for we ask it in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Prayer: Our heavenly Father, we thank You for Your faithfulness during the night, that underneath are the everlasting arms, and that constantly we have the promise You'll never leave us nor forsake us. We thank You for the record of the written Word that You have left for us as a "lamp unto our feet and a light unto our pathway." As we enter into this half-hour of just looking into the Word, we pray that You will cleanse us by the Holy Spirit before we start so that our understanding may be clear, that we may grow thereby as Thou hast promised, to make us faithful witnesses for Thee. In Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Prayer: Our heavenly Father, we come to You this morning because we know that "the grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the Word of our God stands forever." We come with this assurance, that You have revealed to us by grace Your way home. Thank You for keeping us through the night, and we pray now as we come to You for the forgiveness of our sins as we begin the study of the Word that You will help us to understand properly not just what a man says but what the Word of God says. In Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Scripture and Prayer: "Having therefore a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession. For we do not have a High Priest who is not able to sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all respects tested in a similar manner as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of Grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for help in time of need." [Hebrews chapter 4, the last verses of the chapter.]

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Prayer: Our heavenly Father, we thank You for the precious promises of the Word of God, and especially for those promises which encourage us, for we realize that we are but frail clay in this life and that every day as we turn to Thee in our needs Thou art present, that somehow You are saying in very tender words, "I understand. I am with you, I sustain you, and I have prepared a way for you by My grace, that you may reach unto Me." We pray today for those who are especially in need here, those who are in hospitals or on sick beds or having problems which seem unsolvable in the human, but yet You have a way. And then we pray for the one who is nearest eternity without Christ, that somehow the gospel might reach that heart before it is eternally too late. And now, as we turn to the Word of God, we ask again for fresh cleansing, that as we study together we may speak and think the truth for the glory of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Closing Prayer: Our heavenly Father, we pray for Israel today, especially as we realize what has happened in the last several days. [Assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.] Your Word tells us that we are to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. We realize that this will never really take place until You come and set the world right. We look for you, Lord. We do not try to set a date. But we thank You, Lord, for the possibility that at any moment You might make Your appearance and call us unto Yourself in a special way. What a blessed hope is ours this day as we live to serve You. In Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Prayer: Our Father, we thank You that by Your Holy Spirit You know our hearts; You know our need of Thee, our need of forgiveness; You know know our thankfulness that wells from within us. And we thank You for the Word of God, and as we turn to this particular portion we pray that there may be lessons there that the Holy Spirit may teach us as we seek to see a part of the history of Israel. In Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Closing Prayer: Our heavenly Father, we think of our own nation today, so far from the righteousness that You have prescribed for us in the Word of God, and seemingly unconcerned about what God would have us do and be in it all. We pray that in the midst of us there is that remnant who hold high the standard of the Lord, that we might not be punished in such a way that we deserve, but that we may know "Thus says the Lord." We pray for the circumstances in which we find ourselves today, torn apart in high places and low, facing difficulties around the world. We thank You that there is a little sanctuary for us in the heart of God in which we find peace and rest. To this end we pray that we'll walk today, in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

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Scripture and Prayer: "As the deer pants for the waterbrooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God." We thank You, our Father, that Thou hast put within us that earnest desire to seek You, because You have first sought us. We thank You, too, for Your sustaining grace and for bringing us to this hour. We pray that as we come into Your presence, asking for cleansing, that You will be pleased to give us together an understanding of Thy Word, for we ask it in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Ending Prayer: Our heavenly Father, we thank you for the all-seeing eye of a prophet as You revealed to him the things of the future. Lord, as we look into the Word today, we realize that there are things yet unfulfilled, things of awesome nature as God judges this world for its sin, and things of wonderful blessedness as our Lord returns to establish righteousness on this Earth. We pray that we may be ready, in view, with the certainty that underneath are the everlasting arms. We pray for that person that's nearest eternity, who needs You, in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Ending Prayer: Lord, we pray for the nation of Israel. It is a troublesome stone to the nations. Yet they belong to You. We pray for those in Israel who have named the Messiah as their own Savior and the persecutions they are going through, and the churches that are there in the land, and the difficulties they have carrying on their worship. We commit all these events into Your hands, knowing You never make a mistake and work all things together for good. We pray that in our own hearts and lives today we may love You and serve you to the best of our ability. In Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Prayer by Zwingli, a Protestant Reformer in Switzerland: Almighty, eternal and merciful God, whose word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our pathway, open and illuminate our minds that we may purely and perfectly understand Thy word, and that our lives may be conformed to what we have rightly understood, that in nothing we may be displeasing to Thy Majesty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Followed by:

Willis' prayer: Our Father, as we begin this portion of study this morning we pray that this may be true of us, that our hearts may be cleansed from sin in a fresh way and that we may understand what your word has to say, in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Prayer: Our heavenly Father, we thank you for the provisions You have made for us, not only in the good things of this life but especially that we are rich in Christ, having not only in our hands the Word of God but in our hearts the eternal Son of God. As we come to study this morning just for a few moments from the Word, we pray that You will see within us welling up a feeling of thanksgiving and gratitude for Your grace and Your abundant mercy in our daily lives. So with the forgiveness of sin go with us into the study, for we ask it in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

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Prayer: Our heavenly Father, we thank you this morning for your grace in our lives, because we realize that forever and day You have washed us, cleansed us from our sins, past, present and future as we come to You and confess our daily need of forgiveness. Grant, our Father, that we may rejoice today in a great God and Savior, in whose precious name we pray. Amen.

Prayer: Our heavenly Father, we do thank You for an ever-present Savior. He was with us through the night, even if we had some little problems. He is with us this morning as we begin a new day with Thee. And we thank You, too, for the assurance of the Scriptures that He really will never leave us nor forsake us. We pray for help today as we turn to the Word of God, where there are differences of opinion. Grant, our Father, that as we speak we shall together in our thinking and our study glorify Thee, for we ask it in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Prayer: Our heavenly Father, we thank You for Your open arms of grace, for each new day that brings with it the full forgiveness of sins as we look to You, for the encouragement of the Word of God that You will never leave us nor forsake us, and for the assurance that You are holding the future in Your hands. We pray now, as we turn to Your Word for a few moments that you will instruct us in things that are important. Again I earnestly pray that these lips may speak only the truth, or that the ears that hear may understand the truth, to the glory of our Savior, in His precious name. Amen.

Opening remarks:

A famed English hymnist, Charles Wesley, was once enduring depressing circumstances. While contemplating his troubles, he sat at his desk by an open window. Suddenly a small bird fluttered into the room, darted across his chest and crept inside his coat. Gently putting his hand over the trembling bird, Wesley could feel its heart racing. He looked out the window and immediately saw the reason for the bird's fear. Circling nearby was a huge hawk. Still holding the bird against his chest and seeing in its frantic flight a picture of his own search for refuge, Wesley wrote the words,

Jesus, Lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly.
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.

Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into Thy haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.

Followed by prayer:

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Our heavenly Father, we thank You that You have provided for us a safe refuge in Christ, and that as we rest in His ever-loving arms we look up into Your face and say, "Thank You, Lord for saving my soul." Help us to be encouraged by the truth of the Word of God, that You will never leave us nor forsake us, and that You are with us as a constant companion and guide. As we turn to the Word of God we pray for Your help, earnestly, that I may be led to speak the truth, and that especially the ears will hear the truth, for the glory of our Savior in whose precious name we pray. Amen.

Prayer reading: Day by day three things I pray - to see Thee more clearly, to love Thee more dearly, to follow Thee more nearly, day by day.

Prayer: Our heavenly Father, we thank You for the privilege of belonging to You. We ask You, even though we have read a prayer, that from the depths of our hearts we may mean it. As we turn to the Word of God again, we ask, Lord, for enlightenment, for truth. Lord, the teacher is human. We pray that the Holy Spirit may teach us how to glorify Thee. In Jesus' precious name. Amen.

<u>Poem reading:</u>	Not what these hands have done
[author	can save this guilty soul;
unknown]	Not what this toiling flesh has borne
	can make my spirit whole.
	Not what I feel or do
	can give me peace with God;
	Not all my prayers nor sighs nor tears
	can ease my awful load.
	Thy work alone, O Christ,
	can ease this weight of sin;
	Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God,
	can give me peace within.

Prayer: Our heavenly Father, we thank You that our refuge is in Thee, and at that moment when we knelt at the foot of the cross You lifted the burden of eternal punishment for sin, gave us free access into the Holy of Holies, and the availability from day to day to have our sins forgiven as we confess unto Thee. Thank You for the Word of God as it is written and as it has found a place in our lives to direct us from day to day and from hour to hour. We pray that as we turn to look at a few of its pages we shall learn from it. May these lips speak correctly and may our ears and our understanding hear correctly by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to the end that we may glorify Him in whom we rest today. In Jesus' precious name. Amen.

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Reading - source unknown: Everything is farther away than it used to be. It is twice as far to the corner, and they've added a hill. I've noticed I've given up running for the bus - it leaves faster than it used to. It seems to me they are making steps steeper than in the old days. And have you noticed the smaller print they're using in the papers? There's no sense in asking anyone to read aloud as everyone speaks in such a low voice that I can hardly hear them. The material in clothes is getting skimpy, especially around the waist and hips. Even people are changing. They are so much younger than they used to be when I was their age. On the other hand, people my age are so much older than I am. I ran into an old friend the other day, and she had aged so much she didn't recognize me. I got to thinking about the poor thing while I was combing my hair this morning, and in doing this I glanced at my reflection and realized they don't even make good mirrors like they used to.

Prayer: Our heavenly Father, we come to You this morning by Your grace and pray that You shall "teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom," for Thou art with us and with us forever in the security that Christ provides and in the teaching of the Word of God. As we turn to the Book today we pray for help and ask, Lord, that You will help us to rightly divide, for Jesus sake. Amen.

Prayer: Our Father, we come before You this morning in the words of the song, "O teach us, Lord, that we may teach the precious things Thou dost impart; And make our words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart." We thank You for the privilege of gathering around the Word of God - not only for the liberty that You give us but also for the help You give us by the Spirit of God. We depend upon You today, not only for the forgiveness of our sins but also for help at this particular hour. In Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Prayer: Our heavenly Father, we thank You that on the Rock we stand, and that the Word of God is never failing. Thank You for its leading in our meeting with You this morning, and for its speaking to us throughout the day. We pray that our decisions may be based on the principles that You've given to us, which would please You and honor the Lord. And so today, as we come to this brief period of time, we pray for Your direction. Remove from our hearts any sin. Grant, our Father, that the Holy Spirit may freely interpret for us, as individuals, the Word of the living God, for we ask it in Jesus' holy name. Amen.